AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of assessing the cognitive aptitude of a subject to a predetermined task, the method including the steps of:

(i) simultaneously presenting to the subject one of a group of cognitive tasks and a visual flicker;

(ii) detecting brain response signals from the subject during presentation of said ~~group of~~ cognitive ~~tasks~~ task and visual flicker;

(iii) calculating ~~SSVEP~~ amplitude, phase and/or coherence of SSVEP responses elicited by the visual flicker from said brain response signals; and

(iv) comparing said SSVEP responses to known SSVEP responses obtained from individuals with high and/or low aptitudes to said predetermined task in order to assess the subject's aptitude for said predetermined task.

2. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein including the step of presenting said group of cognitive tasks to said individuals in order to obtain said known SSVEP responses and storing said known SSVEP response in a database.

3. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein the cognitive tasks are selected so that they place demands on the subject which are similar to demands experienced when carrying out the predetermined task.

4. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 3 wherein the cognitive tasks are selected so that they place one or more of the following demands on the subject: attention, analytical thinking, holistic thinking, verbal thinking, visuo-spatial thinking, working memory, recognition memory and identifying emotional expressions.

5. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1 including the steps of:

repeating the presentation of said cognitive tasks in order to calculate multiple SSVEP responses;

statistically analysing said SSVEP responses in order to determine statistically significant changes in SSVEP amplitude, phase and/or coherence; and

comparing said statistically significant changes to said known SSVEP responses in order to assess the subject's aptitude for said predetermined task.

6. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1 wherein the step of comparing said SSVEP responses to known SSVEP responses includes the step of assessing the subject's thinking style.

7. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1 wherein steps (i), (ii) and (iii) are performed at a local site and wherein step (iv) is performed at a remote site.

8. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 7 including the step of maintaining a database of said known SSVEP responses at said remote site.

9. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 8 including the step of communicating the amplitude, phase and/or coherence SSVEP responses from the local site via the Internet to said remote site.

10. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for assessing the cognitive aptitude of a subject to a predetermined task, the apparatus including:

(i) means for simultaneously presenting to the subject one of a group of cognitive tasks and a visual flicker;

(ii) means for detecting brain response signals from the subject during presentation of said ~~group of~~ cognitive ~~tasks~~ task and visual flicker;

(iii) means for calculating ~~SSVEP~~ amplitude, phase and/or coherence of SSVEP responses elicited by the visual flicker from said brain response signals; and

(iv) means for comparing said SSVEP responses to known SSVEP responses obtained from individuals with high and/or low aptitudes to said predetermined task in order to assess the subject's aptitude for said predetermined task.

11. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 10 wherein said means for presenting, said means for detecting and said means for calculating are located at a local site and said means for comparing is located at a remote site and wherein the apparatus includes coupling means for coupling said means for calculating to a communications network for transmitting said SSVEP amplitude, phase and/or coherence responses to said means for comparing via the network.

12. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 11 wherein the coupling means includes a modem and the network is the Internet.